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Billiard News

October, 1984

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Scott Smith, Sid Mann, Allen Hopkins, Mike Gullyassey.

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THE NATIONAL
Billiard News

Established in 1962
by
Earl Newby

Publishers
Ray Abrams
Conrad Burkman

Editor
Conrad Burkman

Officer Manager
Sue Edwards

(USPS 470-8901)

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The opinions expressed by contributors may or may not be the views of The National Billiard News.

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Business Mailing Address
P.O. Box 487
Birmingham, Michigan 48012
Phone: (313) 644-1149

Advertising
Space reservation for advertising must be received in our business office no later than the 10th of the month preceding the month of publication. Advertising copy must be received in our business office no later than the 15th of the month preceding the month of publication.

Advertising rates and mechanical specifications are available from our business office by mail or by phone during regular business hours.

Editorial
Material submitted for publication must be received at our editorial address no later than the 12th of the month preceding the month of publication in order to be considered for that issue. Articles and/or photographs submitted cannot be returned unless accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

The National Billiard News is published monthly by Puhka Publishing Company, Inc., 470 N. Woodward, Birmingham, Michigan 48012. Subscription Rate: $12.00 per year. Outside continental U.S. $17.00 per year.

Controlled Circulation Postage Paid at Detroit, Michigan 48223.

POSTMASTER:
Address Corrections-Form 3579 should be sent to Box 487, Birmingham, Michigan.

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ON THE COVER

TOP PHOTO: Earl Strickland with first place trophy and Harry Wald, President of Caesars Palace.

BOTTOM PHOTO: River city winner Allen Hopkins. L to R, TD Scott Smith, Sid Mann, Hopkins and Gulyassey.

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Hopkins, Balukas Get River City Titles

Jean Balukas with Sid Mann

By GRADY MATHEWS

Take the Villa Capri River City Open in Austin, Texas, blend it with 91 players from every area of these United States, and what do you get? A tournament of the highest order, and certainly an event which deserves the connotation "major." Sid Mann and his capable staff provided every courtesty to competitors and fans alike. The spacious convention center housed eight Rebco tables, and these played to near perfection throughout the week-long event.

The semi-finals of the two-bracket tournament came down to Hopkins (one loss) vs. Vanover (undefeated) and Gullyassey (undefeated) vs. Matlock (one loss). Obviously, Hopkins needed to defeat Vanover twice and Matlock needed two wins against Gullyassey, in order to make the finals.

In the initial contest between two great players, Bob Vanover could never get started, and he lost 10 games to 0. But in the rematch it became an exciting duel, with Allen barely prevailing 10 games to 8. It should here be mentioned that earlier in the tournament, Bob handed Allen his only loss, by a 10 to 7 margin. Bob Vanover is playing as well as anyone in the world, and we'll all be hearing more of his name in the future.

Mike Gullyassey, from Cleveland, Ohio, and David Matlock, provided a great match, well played on both sides. It eventually came down to the final game, where David stubbornly succumbed, 10 to 9. Matlock is making a name for himself in professional circles, and he is certain to win many titles in years to come.

And so the finals were: Hopkins vs. Gullyassey. This match stayed close most of the way, until it was tied at 7 games each. From that point Allen Hopkins pulled carefully and steadily away, and won 11 games to 7, adding another major tournament victory to an already impressive list of credentials.

Mike Gullyassey had one of the toughest draws in the tournament and still managed to capture 2nd place honors. He is a talented young man with a special coolness under fire and a winning attitude. Look for him to win many major tournaments.

Mike Gulyassey

In the women's division, which filled up with 32 players, Jean Balukas was the winner. She defeated Jean Vallencourt 9 games to 2 in the finals, but that score was not indicative of Vallencourt's performance throughout the week. She gave so much of herself in reaching the finals, that not much was left at the end. But Jean Vallencourt is going to be around for some time to come, and a 2nd place finish in the "Texas River City Open" is something to be proud of. Jean Balukas, of course, is a worthy champion, and she gave the capacity audience their money's worth, with professional and stylish play.

Vivian Villareal, from Austin, Texas, surprised everyone but herself by finishing in a tie for 3rd and 4th place with Belinda Campos Bearden. Vivian displayed poise and ability against the best women players in the world, and I'd like to add, that she is one of the most colorful and exciting players to come along in quite a while.

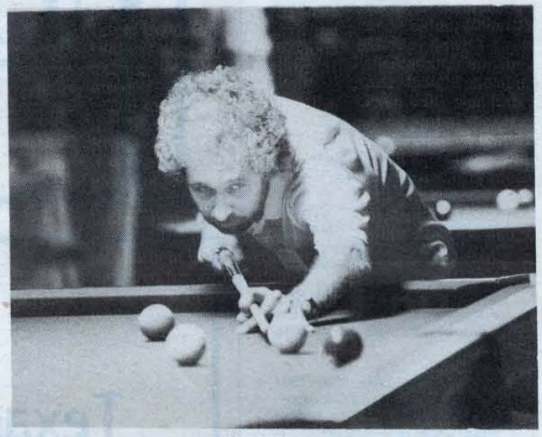
Belinda, as usual, played terrific 9-ball. She was the defending champion from 1983, and in this year's event, defended her crown ably, but fell just short of the mark.

The one-pocket event drew 29 players, which included many of pooldom's finest. The matches, in general were entertaining and professional, and provided an interesting sidenote to a fine event.

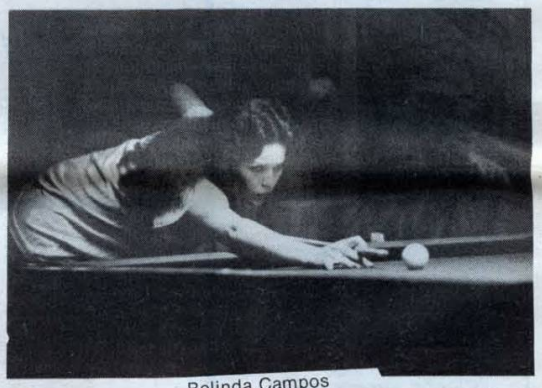
Mike Massey and Danny DiLiberto were 3rd and 4th. Mike has played in only three one-pocket tournaments and has finished 2nd, 3rd and 3rd. Danny, of course, is one of the best one-pocket players in the world.

The finals were Sigel vs. Mathews, but Mike never really loosened up, and the final outcome became; Mathews 4, Sigel 1. "The Captain" is one of the greatest all-around players in the history of our sport and his awesome ability quite naturally encompasses one-pocket.

Continued on Page 3



Nick Varner



Belinda Campos

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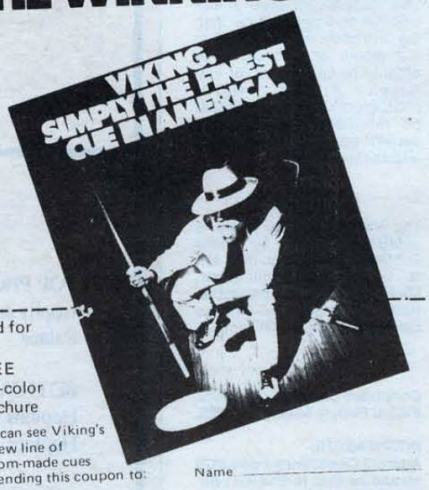

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Big Time in Texas

Continued from Page 2

I won the tournament, thanks to a whole series of good rolls, and I thank Sid Mann for having the one-pocket division.

For anyone who missed the "Texas River City Open", I suggest that you try to make it in 1985. It's a well run, class affair and it always features the greatest players in the world.

One-Pocket

29 players	$8,700
Meucci added	350
1st — $120	
2nd — 90	
3rd — 45	
4th — 45	
Total purse	$9,050

Sid Mann also donated a fine dinner for two at his restaurant for the winner.

1—Grady Mathews	$3,480
plus Meucci	$120
2—Mike Sigel	2,610
plus Meucci	90
3—Mike Massey	1,305
plus Meucci	45
4—Danny DiLiberto	1,305
plus Meucci	45

9-BALL

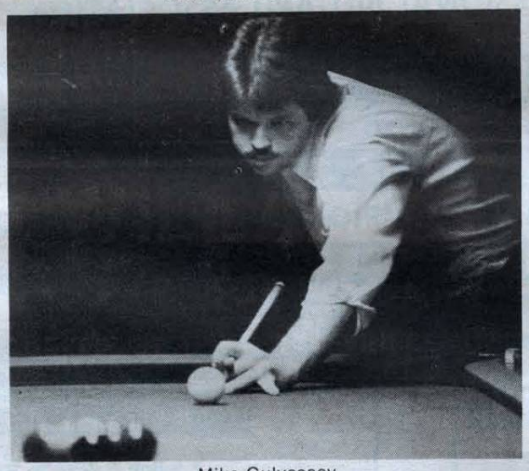
91 players	$27,300
Added purse	9,000
Total purse	$36,300
1—Allen Hopkins	$9,000
2—Mike Gullyassey	5,000
3—Bob Vanover	2,100
4—David Matlock	2,100
5—Howard Vickery	1,250
6—Larry Hubbart	1,250
7—Grady Mathews	1,100
8—Nick Varner	1,100
9—Steve Mizerak	800
10—Buddy Hall	800
11—Greg Fix	800
12—Koos Keiser	800
13—Earl Strickland	650
14—Toby Sweet	650
15—David Howard	650
16—Mike Sigel	650
17—Kim Davenport	550
18—Dana Hallet	550
19—Gary Blackwell	550
20—Jim Rempe	550
21—James Davis	550
22—George Brunt	550
23—Garry Drennin	550
24—Paul Baker	550
25—Ramiro Flores	400
26—Jeff Carter	400
27—L.C. Nelson	400
28—Javier Franco	400
29—David Henson	400
30—Bill Burge	400
31—Dick Lane	400
32—Pat Fleming	400

Women's 9-Ball

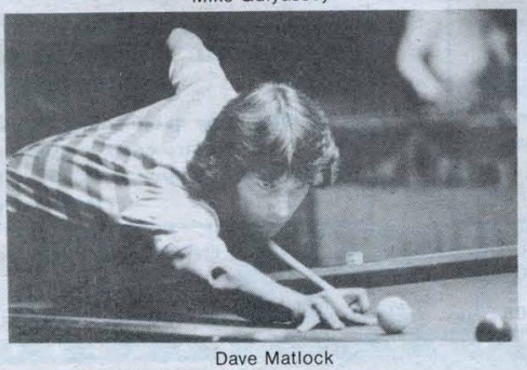
32 players	$6,400
Added purse	1,000
Total purse	$7,400
1—Jean Balukas	$2,300
2—Jean Vallencourt	1,550
3—Vivian Villareal	910
4—Belinda C. Bearden	910
5—Kelly Simpson	515
6—Vicky Frechen	515
7—Robin Hansen-Bell	350
8—Peg Ledman	350

Vivian Villareal

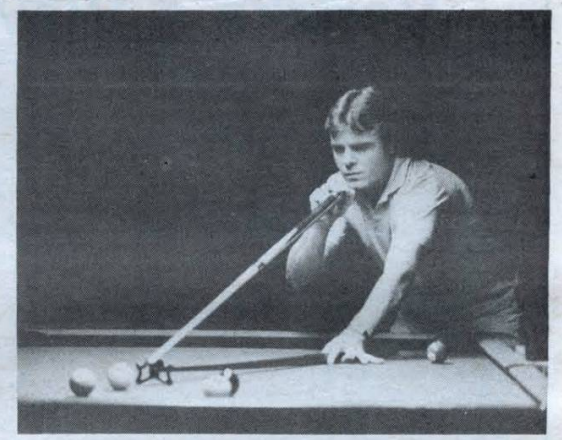
Jean Vallencourt - 2nd



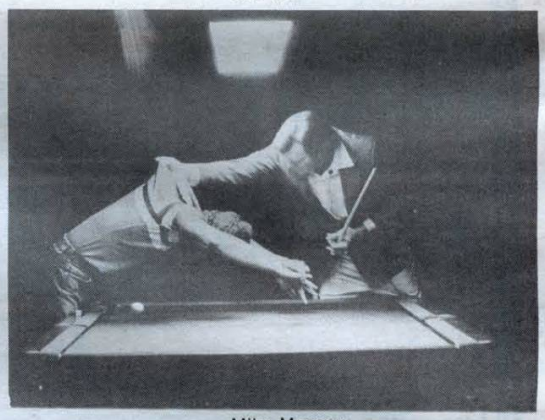
Mike Gulyassey



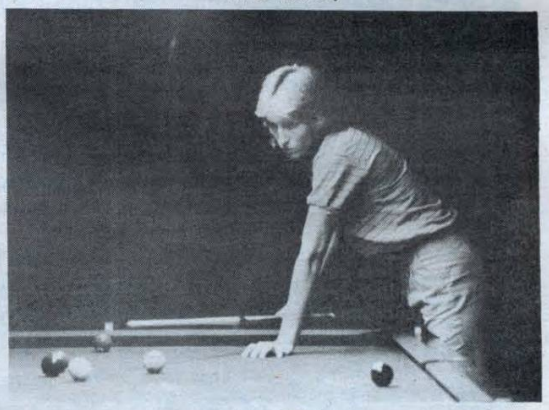
Dave Matlock



Bob Vanover



Mike Massey



Jean Balukas

Venzke's View from the bleachers *By Bruce Venzke*

A FRIEND IS LOST

She is gone, and those of us who even once shared a day with her know fully that our loss is immense.

LONI R. BRANDES, the premier woman three cushion player in America, died of cancer September 7 in her hometown of Milwaukee at the age of 54.

The Japanese-born Mrs. Brandes is survived by husband Gordon, as well as other family and friends both here and in Japan. To them I extend my most sincere condolences; I know that the void created by the passing of a person of Loni's decency, warmth, compassion and character simply cannot be filled.

I first met the vivacious Loni in the very early 70's at the since-razed Antler's Hotel Billiards in Milwaukee, where operator Joe Schardt conducted 3-cushion tournaments in several classes for the many who just couldn't seem to get enough of 3-C billiards.

And Loni certainly became part of that group! She loved to play... and play... and play. We met through officiating those tournaments, and she soon got me to pass some time on the 3-C tables while I was waiting around for pool action. Those occasional sessions became very enjoyable, and lasted for about a year or so. And though we were a "game of last resort" for each other (since I was totally outclassed), I know that she still enjoyed playing thoroughly.

Time and different pursuits then slowly separated us, and I saw less and less of Loni. But each time we renewed our acquaintance, in whatever billiard hall in whatever city, it was always an absolute joy to see her again. Our very last meeting was in early June at Palmer's Billiards in Milwaukee, and she was trying to come back from illness' first vicious onslaught.

It was obvious that she had been stricken, but it was also obvious that she was fighting back. The spirit, the zest, the warmness of her greeting — those qualities, as always, were fully there. And her drive and determination were likewise undaunted: she was there battling to regain the strength and feeling she would need to go to the prestigious Denver Open in July!! Had you been there, it might have surprised you — but not me. Because she was Loni.

And she DID make it to that tournament, the last of the hundreds she played during over a decade as the queen of the American Billiard Association. She started strong in Denver, but weakness took its toll and she wound up third in her consolation bracket.

The day after the tournament, she returned home; she checked into the hospital the next morning. That was July 17. She had played her last game of 3-cushion.

Still, the marvelous spirit shone through. After a July 28th hospital visit, A.B.A. Director Gale Johnson reported back to fellow ABAer's to "go see Loni and get cheered up." Her indomitable good nature and positive attitude still prevailed — of course — because she was Loni.

Johnson termed the 3-time Chairperson of the A.B.A. "The most positive and beneficial influence on both the game of 3-cushion and on the A.B.A." in his 12 years with the organization. "Loni traveled more miles, played more tournaments and enthused more new-comers than anyone else, without doubt" added Johnson.

Robert C. Miller, mathematician, angular 3-cushionist and friend of both Loni and billiards, said "She held her opponents and the game in the highest regard. Her conduct and demeanor were always reflective of that fact. It amazed me that players (very good players, too!) were genuinely pleased for her after her hard-fought tournament victories — even when they were the victims!" The writer likes to think it was... because she was Loni.

Those big victories didn't come easily or often, though. But for Loni, the consummate competitor who asked no quarter and received none, the difficulty only enhanced the prize. And finally on May 31, 1981, she became the first woman to ever win an A.B.A. sanctioned event, the Winona Open in Winona, MN. The entire A.B.A. celebrated with her.

She stopped at our room in Madison on the way back from playing all weekend in Winona... and played another whole day just for the fun of it! How she loved that game of 3-cushion!

Just as those of us who knew Loni Brandes loved her... and still do. May the spirit of a marvelous woman rest in peace with her — and live on in the future with us. Because she was Loni.

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The Horn Section

by Melodie Horn

I was recently asked if I thought women had the potential to reach the level of skill now realized by the men players in our sport. Before I give my opinion I would like to provide some background which reflects my conclusions.

Pool, for too many years to count, has been the "Peck's Bad Boy" of competitive sports. The mention of pool evoked pictures of a dingy, smoke-filled room, where gambling and other nefarious deeds were going on, and mean looking, unkempt characters lurked in dark corners, or slumped in chairs.

Even the movies promoted the image (possibly in all innocence) when "The Music Man" sang his wonderful "you've got trouble — with a capital T and that rhymes with P and that stands for Pool." No matter how much we laughed at that song, it still represented a picture that much of the public has had of the game.

In many areas of the country, young people below the age of 18 were (and are) not allowed in public pool halls. The reputation of pool halls in the past were such that men would not take their wives or girlfriends in because "decent" girls didn't frequent these places. (Even when they were clean, respectable places.) Consequently few women were given the opportunity to compete in an open forum.

On the other hand, (and a fact that has always amazed me by its contradictory nature) a pool table is one of the most prestigious pieces of furniture one can own. That has been a fact for more years than I've been around. Due to the cost, only the very well-to-do could afford them, and the space they required, but they were showcase pieces of furniture. Hence if women were so inclined, they could play — at home. (Understanding of course that it was still a "man's game".) While that's nice, it certainly doesn't create an atmosphere for improvement through competing under pressure.

By the very nature of the impediments, many fine players were completely disenfranchised without a place to develop and hone their skills.

Then, there were the taverns. Thirty years ago there were a few tables in taverns, but by and large taverns were for drinking beer, playing shuffleboard, and shooting the breeze with the guys. It wasn't until the advent of the "social" tavern that entertainment in the taverns took on another perspective. Standard tables ($4\frac{1}{2}$ x 9) were too large for the floor space in most taverns, so the smaller tables with coin slides began to be more on the scene. The taverns started to dress up their images to attract more women, because where the women went, so went the men.

Slowly women began to join their companions at the pool tables. The teachers were usually the husbands or boyfriends, and while some of the men were very good, most of the men were average players, and so not many of the ladies advanced much beyond the aim, shoot, and pray stage. Besides, everyone knew that it was unfeminine to be too competitive. (That's always been one of my personal favorites.)

Occasionally a woman would show a marked natural ability, but unless a really fine player saw the talent, and offered to help, the talent usually ended up frustrated and pool was dropped for some other interest.

When I began to play in the early 70's women had come a long way on their road to acceptance. Much of what you heard about good women players came from back east where the heart of the game seemed to be, but women all over the country were finding new places to compete by joining leagues, playing in tavern tournaments, and some of the more adventurous began to gamble and play on the road.

Slowly women have been gaining. Competitive arenas are opening up. 742 women competed in the Miller Lite Women's 8-Ball division. Tournament sponsors are seeking the competition from women.

Consequently the increased play, heavier pressure, and more money is drawing women to compete and improve. Through all of this, the very good woman player has increased in numbers 10 fold or more, for as in any other sport, the quality of play increases in direct ratio with practice and experience.

One of the distinctions of this sport which lends itself so well to the increased performance by women is that it is not a game of strength or physical agility, but of mental agility.

Yes, masse shots do require some strength, as do the more difficult jump shots. But the strength required is not beyond a woman's capability. The finesse shot requires no strength, and is to my way of thinking much the more difficult a shot.

The qualities necessary to develop the game to its expertise is a well developed, even stroke, good hand-eye coordination, concentration,

Continued on Page 8

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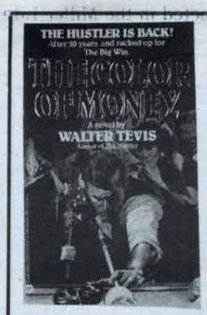

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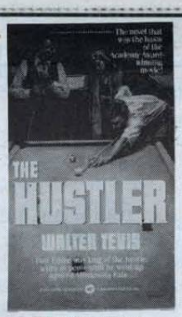

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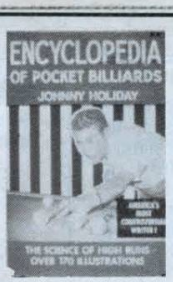

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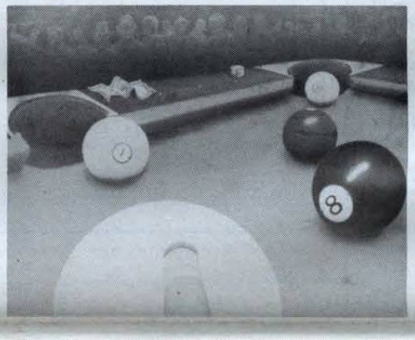

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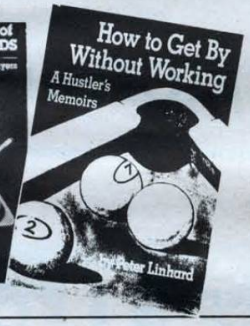

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Horn

Continued from Page 6

and the most difficult aspect to master, control of the mind. If you've got natural talent to go along with it, you are the richer for it.

So, in answer to the question posed at the beginning, do I feel women have the potential to reach the level of skill of the men? My answer would have to be an unqualified yes. There are women who do have the POTENTIAL. How long it takes and how many do it is entirely in the hands of the doer. It takes dedication, hard work, sacrifices, and many lonely hours to come out at the top. Especially in a sport which has not yet developed a solid base of income for the player.

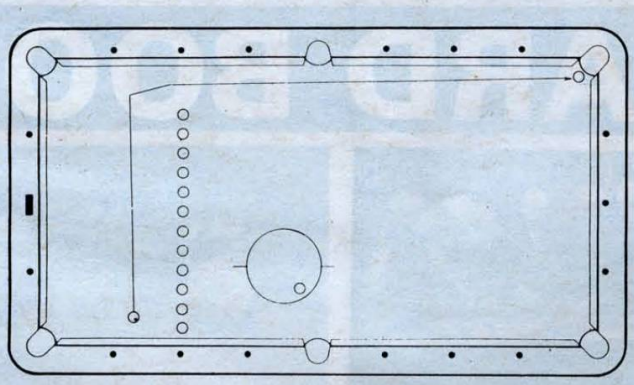
I do see, in the not so distant future, that pool will develop a professional playing arena where those who wish to become professionals in this sport can make a living. As it does, not only women, but more men will set out to develop and demonstrate their talent.

It is sad to think of how many potentially talented people never got the chance to even play a game because of an image mostly misrepresentative of the spirit of the game as a whole.

Trick Shot of the Month

By Paul Gerni

This month, I'd like to show you a classic shot used originally in the billiard artistic "Fantasi Classic" Championships, and recently adopted for the world artistic and trick shot championships for the pocket billiards (pool) discipline, but a real crowd-thriller when it is successfully performed.



This is a Masse shot. If you are well-schooled on masses, please take the time to review, study, and analyze masse techniques and behavior. When you understand the tendencies, you'll know what you need to do here.

The object is to simply masse the cue ball around the line of object balls (in the world championships a "pin" is placed where the final ball of that line is located), making a right hand turn, and moving down the long rail to pocket the intended object ball in the corner pocket.

You'll notice also, that the large inset circle represents the cue ball and the striking point for the masse. You may also want to experiment with the angle of the cue to maximize the shot's effectiveness, but be careful with your tip and the cloth — I think you know what I mean. In Europe, this masse is best played with the bridge hand on the table, though you may find the free-hand style masse bridge more comfortable or reliable. Again, the choice is yours. Practice this one, you'll find it very useful in some game situations, and also very educational to your masse control.

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Kim Davenport Wins Labor Day Event

By JOEL LEHMAN

Kim Davenport of Modesto, California won the $1,300, first prize, at Gene Starys' Great American Billiards, "Labor Day-Nine-Ball tournament", held September 1 & 2 in Sacramento, Calif. Great American Billiards added $1,000 to the total prize fund making a grand total of $5,000 total prize fund. Gene Starys is going to add money to the prize funds and hopes to add as much as $4,000 in the future.

The format was a race to six, double elimination, one foul ball in hand. The tournament drew 81 players at $50 each.

Notable Players; Paul "Doc" Brienza ('77 National 9-Ball Champion), Kim Davenport (California state champion, many times), Al "The Plumber" Winchenbaugh (California champ & 9th in Las Vegas '84), Pete "Captain Pete" Lhotka ('79 National Collegiate champion), Tim Kwong (very impressive young star), Roy Futternick (always a threat), Sal Butera (Son of "Lou"), and Jim McKittrick.

Mr. McKittrick, lawyer and organizer, loves the game and showed up to show he can still make a ball. Some of you will remember Mr. McKittrick as the fellow who tried to organize the top pool players in 1968. Such greats as Joe Balsis, Irving Crane, Luther Lassiter, Eddie Taylor, Ed Kelly, Lou Butera and many more. Jim was trying to organize these players so that they could be guaranteed expense money and other benefits because, if these champions don't show at the tournament no one will come to play or watch. Mr. McKittrick tried to keep these players out of "The Stardust open" to convince the promoters, the "Jansco Brothers" that these players needed more support. Unfortunately Irving Crane and then Ed Kelley decided not to hold out, consequently, this budding organization lost its momentum and dissolved. Jim kept the checks from these champions to jokingly show people that he'd won the money off these players playing pool. Jim, thanks for your support, keep on shooting. Another claim to fame for Jim was his narrow defeat to Joe Balsis (180-200 pts.) in an exhibition in Eureka, Calif. Mr. McKittrick's high run is 101 balls (teriffic).

Great American Billiards & Dining's beautiful, well-thought-out, and the finest pool room in the country. Great American Billiards boasts 28, 4½ x 9 Rebco tables (6 of which are located in the tournament room). The pool hall is well designed, plenty of room between tables, stools and tables for every table, and a well stocked beer and wine bar. The restaurant seating extends well into the playing area so you can enjoy your steak dinner & watch your favorite players shoot. Great American has ten air conditioners and smoke eaters through-out the facility. The tournament room can seat 160 spectators with comfortable theatre styled tiered seating.

Saturday saw two major upsets; Al "The Plumber" Winchenbaugh lost, earning $50 for his efforts and Sax Dal Porto losing early, earning $25.

Sunday left 16 players playing for the rest of the pie. "Doc" Brienza played Kim Davenport to the wire, 5-5, but Kim took off the win putting Brienza into the losers bracket. Unfortunately, the Doc ran into Sean Azares of Stockton, Ca. Brienza did shoot to a 3-0 lead before Sean drove right through to a 6-3 victory knocking Brienza out of the tournament. Roy Futternick beat Dee Hulse (owner of executive Billiards, in Redwood City, Ca.) 6-4, but then matched up with Kim Davenport. Kim put Roy away with a 6-1 win. Later Roy ran into Dee Hulse again, giving Dee a chance for revenge. Unfortunately it wasn't meant to be and Dee Hulse fell out of the tournament with a 6-1 loss delivered by Futternick.

The final match for the cash saw Kim Davenport (from the winners bracket) and Roy Futternick (from the losers bracket). Futternick made a gallant effort, but couldn't stop Kim from the $1,300 first prize.

1 — Kim Davenport	$1,300
2 — Roy Futternick	700
3 — Pete Lhotka	500
4 — Dee Hulse	400
5 — Richard Renk	250
6 — Tim Kwong	250
7 — Bill Mielke	150
8 — Sean Azares	150
9 — Danny D'Imperio	100
10 — Daryl Nordquist	100
11 — Paul Brienza	100
12 — Doug Klisch	100
13 — Art (Jr.) Garcia	75
14 — Bob Bidot	75
15 — Red Ito	75
16 — Gary Hutchings	75
17 — Al Winchenbaugh	50
18 — Mike Boyd	50
19 — James Bowen	50
20 — Bill Stock	50
21 — John Lalo	50
22 — Tony White	50
23 — Eric Harada	50
24 — Richard Marquez	50
25 — Sal Butera	25
26 — John Henderson	25
27 — Kevin Smith	25
28 — Rick White	25
29 — Jim Wright	25
30 — Frank Lively	25
31 — Tim Mlachnik	25
32 — Sax Del Porto	25

I'd like to thank the wonderful people at Great American Billiards and Dining for their helpful cooperation. Gene Stary and his thorough staff made our stay a pleasure. Their next tournament will be Nov. 3 & 4 sponsored by Pepsi-Cola and Great American Billiards. I hope to see you there.

WPBA Championships Announced

On the third weekend of November — in the Catskill Mountains in upstate New York — the country's top professional women pool players will gather to compete in their annual National Championship.

NEW YORK CITY — The Women's Professional Billiard Association is proud to announce The Sixth Annual "1984 WPBA National Pocket Billiards Championship", November 16, 17, 18, 1984, at The Pines Hotel, S. Fallsburg, New York. This prestigious women's pocket billiards event will gather the top 32 women pool players in the country who will compete for a $10,000 prize fund and WPBA Championship honors. Jean Balukas, of Brooklyn, New York, the number one woman pool player in the world, will be defending her 1983 WPBA Championship title against such top ranked players as: Loree Jon Ogonowski, Garwood, New Jersey — current World 9-Ball Champion; Ewa Mataya, Holt Michigan — European Champion; Belinda Campos, Austin, Texas — current National 8-Ball Champion; Gloria Walker, West Chester, Pennsylvania — 1980 WPBA Champion; and Robin Bell, Costa Mesa, California — current National Tavern 8-Ball Champion.

What is unique and exciting about the WPBA Championship is that WPBA sanctioned qualifying tournaments are being conducted throughout the United States which act as stepping-stones toward a playing berth in the WPBA Championship field. Hundreds of women players have already competed in these elimination tournaments earlier this year, with the winners automatically qualifying to compete in the WPBA Championship finals.

This year the pocket billiards competition being contested for the 1984 WPBA Championship is 9-Ball. Starting with a rack of 9 balls, numbered 1 through 9, the player must pocket the balls in numbered sequence and designate the pocket in which she expects to score each shot. A player stays at the table until she misses, then gives up her turn to allow her opponent a chance to continue to score. The game is over when one of the players works up to legally pocketing the 9-ball. The first player to win 9 games wins the match and advances to the next round.

The WPBA Championship will be a double elimination tournament played upon four 4½' x 9'

Continued on Page 17

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Pool in The Northwest

By MELODIE HORN

The Labor Day weekend found players from the Pacific Northwest "laboring" over the pool tables at the Hunt & Fish Tavern in Beaverton, Or., competing in the 5th Annual Labor Day Open 9 Ball Tournament.

Pat Schumacher came out on top of a field of 41 to take down 1st place and $550.00 in the $1400.00 event. Entry fees brought in $1230.00 with Joe & Kathy Ringo adding $170.00 to round out the prize fund.

Summer in the Northwest has been an unusual one. Since sometime in June, the skies have been dominated by blue sky and sunshine, a phenomenon almost unprecedented in more than a decade. As a consequence not much has been happening on the green felt, because nearly everyone was soaking up as much of that alien summer sun as possible, storing up for the coming 6-8 months of nearly unbroken rain. The Labor Day weekend was also beautiful, but that did not keep the Hunt & Fish from experiencing one of the best tournament fields seen in some time to compete in the race to 9 — Vegas rules format.

Joe Ringo, Tournament Director, felt this event was "one of the most successful ever". Much of the reason for the turn out, Joe felt, was that he had deliberately held no tournaments during the month of August. During the year, the Hunt & Fish hosts as many as 3-4 events a month: By holding off through August (partly due to the good weather), Joe felt the players "were ready to get back into it."

Saturday afternoon, as one entered the front door, the click-plunk of the pool balls resounded on all sides from the ten tables. Voices were heard talking about the latest money score, what went on at the tournaments in Las Vegas, who was beating whom, and what road players were recently seen, or rumored to have been seen.

There were long familiar faces, as well as some less familiar new ones. Non-playing spectators were everywhere.

The greater Seattle area was represented by Dan Louie, Rich Geiler, Mike Bjorum, Mike Dooley, and Vince Frayne. From the Tri-Cities area of Eastern Washington came John Hett, Fred Morse, and cue maker Rich Benson. The tournament's only lady competitor, Cathy Gamble, was from the Kelso/Longview area along with her husband Pat, and Ivon Doty. Klammath Falls brought Tullie Carr, Jay Krause came from Eugene, Jan Monroe from Newport, Or., and Dan Crabtree came up from Salem.

An old friend and Hunt and Fish player from some years back also found his way to the tournament, Louie Lemke, current BCA 8 ball champion. Louie, originally from Minnesota, lived for some time in the Portland area. Even though he once again resides in Minnesota, it is difficult to consider him anything other than an Oregonian.

In the Portland/Metropolitan field were such players as David Rhodes, Dave Reavis, Dave Wells, Terry Ward, Bob Zach, Pat Schumacher, and Mike Baker. On the horizon are players such as Tony Newman, playing, gaining experience, and learning new skills.

The first and second rounds brought no big upsets. Cathy Gamble suffered her first loss in the second round at the hands of Dan Crabtree. Tony Newman played his first match against a most imposing player in the form of Dan Louie. Tony was a hard competitor, but was not able to stem the tide of Dan's vast experience and ability.

The 3rd round winner's bracket matches found Vince Frayne falling to Louie Lemke, Dan Crabreee scoring a win over Dave Wells, Mike Bjorum defeating Dan Louie, Bob Zach over David Rhodes, Pat Gamble losing to Pat Schumacher, Mike Baker besting Hal Kindred, Ike Seagraves advancing over Joe Ringo, and Rich Geiler winning over Dave Reavis.

Sunday afternoon found Louie Lemke in a losing struggle against himself losing to Dan Crabtree as a result. Mike Bjorum's advance in the winner's bracket was ended by Bob Zach, Mike Baker was defeated by his old nemesis Pat Schumacher, and Rich Geiler continued his winning streak against opponent Ike Seagraves.

Four players remained in the winner's bracket.

In highly competitive matches Dan Crabtree advanced with a win over Bob Zach and Pat Schumacher continued his undaunted march by defeating Rich Geiler.

Schumacher, who is originally from Sioux City, Iowa, has been working for the past 5 years to develop his skills at the table. Dan Crabtree, who works recovering and repairing tables has been playing for many years. Just recovering from a bout with tendonitis, Dan was not as confident in his play, but was playing well.

In a match that ended with a 9-8 score, Pat Schumacher was the only player left as yet unbeaten in a match. Dan waited for the dust to settle in the loser's bracket to see who he would play for the chance to once again play Schumacher for the championship.

Since each of the players in the loser's bracket have each one loss, the matches here are sometimes the most exciting. Each knows they cannot experience another loss, or they will be out of the competition.

Of those left after being defeated in the earlier winner's bracket matches, Louie Lemke advanced to play Rich Geiler, and Mike Dooley met Bob Zach. Rich and Bob emerged to play each other and set their sights on advancing to play Dan.

Both are experienced and have mastered much that is the game of 9 ball. While many give Rich an edge over Bob, it is by no means a sure thing especially in a Vegas rule tournament atmosphere. As often happens, one mistake can be fatal. During one of the match games, Geiler broke and scratched. By the rules, a scratch on the opening break gives the incoming player cue ball behind the head string. Without thinking Bob set the ball over the head string and made his shot giving Rich cue ball in hand. He ultimately won the match.

It was now Geiler and Crabtree. Dan started off with two straight games, with Rich following suit. At the end of the 6th game, they were again tied, but then Dan scored an early 9 carom off the one and won the next game also after Rich scratched on the 4. Score 5-3 Crabtree. In the 9th game, Dan, hooked behind a ball, made a kick for 3, but did not send a ball to a rail. This was the beginning of the end, and after much struggling Rich took command of the match defeating Dan and winning his chance to play Pat.

The finals found both players cautious in their approach, circling each other sizing up the play. Each knew that one mistake might be their last.

Rich opened the match with a 3-0 lead. Pat answered the opening volley with a table run after Rich failed to make a ball on the break. Pat's break also failed to pocket a ball, and Rich began moving around the table, with a seemingly sure win. But he missed the 8 ball in the corner leaving both it and the 9 in easy position. He classed Pat the two balls to make the score 3-2.

Marked by several safeties, the match was uninspired. Pat didn't seem able to settle down, and Rich didn't seem "up" with his usual energy. At the end of the 12th match they were tied 6-6.

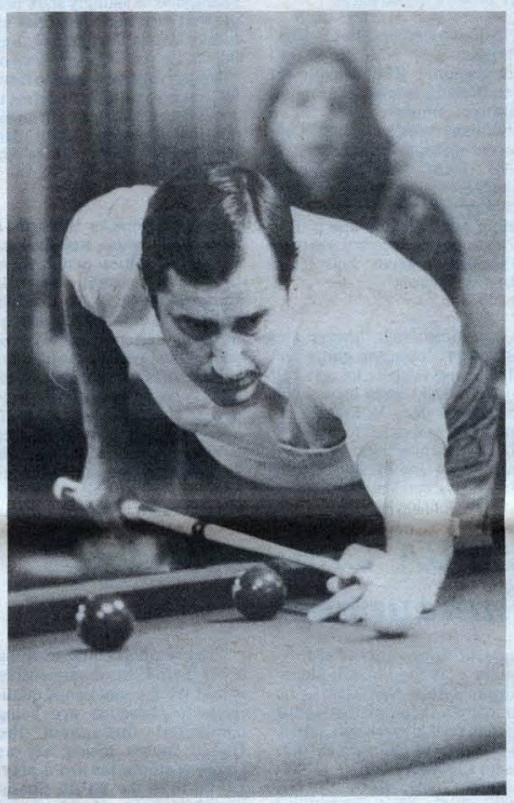
Then came game 13, Geiler's break. The room echoed with the crack of the cue against the rack and the 7, 3 and 9 balls all went down. The cue ball ran dangerously close to scratching in the corner pocket, but remained upright giving Rich the win. His next break sent the 1 and 3 balls into the hole and he successfully maneuvered the cue ball around the table for the run and win.

The 15th game. Rich sauntered over and asked Mike Dooley for a light. Mike said, "sure, if you make the 9 on the break". Rich broke the balls. It was the 2 that fell, but when the balls came to rest he had a makeable 1/9 combo for the win. "That'll do." said Mike.

The two players are now even with one loss each. Again the play is cautious. There were several good safeties, some fine recovery shots, and an occasional run. Again at the end of the 12th game they were tied. Pat began to settle down. Victory was within his reach. He won the next game after playing safe on the 5 ball, and secured the win after Rich missed a ½ combination.

The tournament prize money distribution was as follows: 1st — Pat Schumacher — $550.00; 2nd Rich Geiler — $300.00; 3rd — Dan Crabreee — $175.00; 4th — Bob Zach — $125.00; 5th — Louie Lemke — $75.00; 6th — Mike Dooley — $75.00; 7th — Dave Reavis — $50.00; 8th — Mike Bjorum — $50.00.

In Stroke



TEXAS STATE 9-Ball Champ Vanover set a record in winning his title recently. In the final match his opponent broke and failed to make a ball. Vanover ran the rack and the next 8 racks to grab the title.

Books Make Great Christmas Gifts Order Yours Today!

See Page 7

Earl "The Pearl" Strickland Wins Another Caesar's Event

By JOHN CASH

LAS VEGAS, NV — "Cyclops" didn't bother Earl "The Pearl" Strickland one bit!

While "The Pearl" played like a polished gem in all but two matches throughout the six days of the Caesars Palace Pro Billiard Classic here, his peers fell victim to innumerable distractions.

Strickland conquered the elements and finally, Terry Bell, 9-6 en route to the $25,000 first-place prize in the $100,000 professional tournament, Aug. 14-18.

Seldom was Strickland challenged. He was near flawless in his march to the championship which encompassed seven matches — all races-to-9 in the double-elimination format. Earl went through unbeaten and nearly untouched.

The same can't be said for most of the other participants, especially the final day when the last four survivors from an original field of 90 got down to business before the roving eye of the television camera lens.

As will be the case for the second stop on the United States Professional Billiard Association Tour Nov. 6-10 at Caesars in Lake Tahoe, NV, ESPN taped the Caesars Palace event for a scheduled December national audience.

"Cyclops" in this instance was the one-eyed monster in the form of a hand-held camera that moved in to nearly touch the leather surrounding each pocket whenever a crucial shot was about to be made.

This technique so disturbed Dallas West that he seemed to wilt under the pressure during his losers' bracket semifinal match against eventual runner-up Bell.

West had been destroying his competition in the previous four matches on the losers' side by scores of 9-4, 9-1, 9-0 and 9-3. However, when he hit the TV lights he seemed to fade into obscurity, losing to the determined Bell, 9-7 after leading at one point, 5-3.

The same held true for little David Howard. He felt he was the victim of an erroneous bad-hit call on the part of referee Nick Sciartelli in the losers' bracket finale against Bell.

After that he lost his concentration and succumbed to the elements, a la West, losing 9-5 after drawing to within 6-5.

Even the finals of the well-run tournament sponsored by Corner Pockets of America in conjunction with Richie Florence Productions, resembled anything but what one would expect from players of this caliber — the elite in their sport.

Seldom does one witness as many as a half-dozen missed shots in one *match*, let alone one *game*, but it happened in this one! Regardless of the explanation, the fact remains that the conditions were identical for all players.

The reason can be explained in one word: *P-R-E-S-S-U-R-E!*

Whether that element was the result of the roving TV lens, the recovered table for the final-day's play, the raised Corner Pockets of America logo that players said caused the cue ball to slide on draw shots or just plain nervousness, Strickland proved to be the one to best handle the situation.

In short, perhaps that is why this 23-year old lad from Roseboro, NC who makes his home in Houston has skyrocketed onto the professional scene the past two years and literally stood the veterans on their collective ears.

With the exception of the first U.S. Professional Billiards Tour event, "The Shoot-out on The Boardwalk" at the Regency Hotel in Atlantic City, NJ in 1983, Strickland practically "owns" the events held at Caesars World facilities.

Mike "Captain Hook" Sigel captured the Caesars Boardwalk Regency event, but Earl "The Pearl" dominated the second and third USPBT events.

He won the 1983 Caesars Tahoe and 1984 Caesars Palace tourneys by roaring through each without a defeat. He was nearly at his best in this one with the exception of the final match.

After a first-round bye Strickland struggled slightly against Toby Sweet of Nanuet, NY before winning 9-5. Only Bell in the finals and popular one-pocket veteran Grady Mathews of Detroit who played perhaps his best 9-ball over all in this event, were able to win as many as 6 games against Earl.

Strickland followed his "Sweet win" by destroying in order, Gary Hutchings of Laguna Hills, CA, 9-1 and former world straight pool champ Ray Martin of Newberg, NY, 9-0.

Then came the exciting contest against Mathews in the winners' bracket quarter-finals that stood 6-5 Strickland before Earl got back in stroke to capture 3 of the final 4 games.

He followed with a 9-3 and 9-4 wins over Bell and Howard, respectively and calmly and confidently awaited his final challenge.

Meanwhile, Bell was methodically taking apart the struggling West, who just two months earlier had won a total of $30,000 — the most ever by a player in one event in U.S. pocket billiard history, during the Lite Beer 3rd $300,000 World Series of Tavern Pool Pro Open division and a subsequent $5,000 challenge match at the MGM Grand Hotel here in Las Vegas.

During one game Bell and West combined to miss three times each when neither was hooked or attempting to play safe. Bell, however, regained his concentration and performed superbly for the remainder of the tournament.

In the finals the Lake St. Louis, MO professional ran out from the 2 ball to take a 1-0 advantage. Strickland, however, came back to win two successive tactically played games and ran out from the 7 ball to lead 3-1.

Bell showed no ill effects that could have resulted from a two-year layoff from tournament competition due to his time-consuming responsibilities with the Busch Pool Leagues.

He captured 5 of the next 6 games including the only break and run-out of the finals to take a 6-4 cushion.

It was here that the lack of competition became evident in Bell's game. Earl "The Pearl" simply was better prepared both physically *AND* mentally, which proved to be decisive. He won the final 5 games, two of which involved superb safety play.

Bell later explained, "What I was doing in this tournament was that physically I was hitting the balls as well as I would ever need to; however, still occasionally I would have the mental lapse, which once again, comes from the lack of competition.

"Occasionally I would have a mental let-up where I wouldn't follow my mental procedures," bell continued. "I have a kind of a 1-2-3-4 mental procedure that I use and you're not supposed to go from one step to the next unless the previous one is completed.

"You can out-smart yourself by skipping steps and it can jump up and grab you. That's what happened against Earl," Terry concluded.

Nevertheless he walked off with the $10,000 runner-up prize and surprised a few people along the way, including the Rockford, IL wizard West and the Jacksonville, FL flash Howard.

Howard finished third to collect $7,500 and West rested alone in fourth place, worth $5,000.

David Matlock, of Ponca City, OK, a rising star on the regulation 4½x9-foot tables used in these professional events but long respected as one of the top tavern-size table players, and Dave Bollman, a top-notch one-pocket player from Norfolk, VA shared fifth and sixth places to take home $3,000 each.

Mathews and Martin tied for seventh and eighth spots, each pocketing $2,500.

After he had time to reflect upon his USPBT performance, Strickland was pondering whether the over-used expression, "the third time's the charm" holds any validity.

"Maybe I can do it this time," Strickland drawled, referring to winning three important tourneys in succession.

"In 1982 I was playin' in the Dayton (OH) Open 9-Ball Tournament. I defeated Buddy Hall twice to win after Hall had put me in the losers' bracket. I won $5,000.

"Then I won at Akron right after that," Earl continued. "I beat Howard Vickery in the finals and got through the tourney unbeaten.

"Then I went to Chattanooga (TN) to try for No. 3 in Mike Massey's event. I won the winners' bracket and was waitin' for the losers in the finals.

"So, who is he but David Howard. He beat me 12-5 — just destroyed me so bad that I went into a six-month slump."

Strickland's eyes light up as he continues to explain his road to success in an interview the day following his Caesars Palace triumph. He becomes very animated.

"I go to Memphis in 1983 (Clyde Childress). I'm ahead 10-7 in the winners' bracket in the sixth round against Keith McCready. I missed two 9 balls straight in and lose 11-10. People thought I was dumpin' I hit those so bad. I got knocked out in my very next match.

"Then I win a little one in Slidell, LA in July and then comes Lake Tahoe. Everybody is there. I beat Steve Mizerak 9-8 in my first match. Then I beat Hoppy (Allen Hopkins) 9-5 and "Miz" again 9-2 to win $25,000 plus a car.

"After that big one I play at home in Red's at Houston," Earl said, his voice rising as he excitedly rambles on.

"Miz puts me in the losers' bracket 9-4 in the seventh round. I beat Buddy Hall and then in a one-match final with "Miz" I beat him 11-7. I played better in those two than I did here at Caesars Palace.

"Once again I'm on a roll. I win two in a row and really am itchin' to get that third one," Earl said. "So I go to Richmond, KY to Monroe Brock's tournament.

"I make it to the finals through the losers' bracket where I was sent by Keith McCready. Now I had to beat him twice. So I win the first one 11-7 and lose the second. 11-9.

"So we try it again! I'm playing in the McDermott Masters and I lose my second match to Vickery 11-10. I go through the losers' bracket, get some good rolls to beat Buddy Hall twice and he wasn't getting any good rolls and I win my bracket.

"Meanwhile Danny Medina wins the other bracket and I beat Medina 13-9 to win it.

"But then I go to Madison, NC for a $3,000 winners' share and win $1,500 for finishing second. I lost two times to Sigel.

"The Miller Lite was next and I finished third behind Dallas West and Mike Massey. I lose to Massey in the third round and then win 9 in a row in the losers' bracket to get back into the hunt.

"But Massey whips me 9-3 and once again I can't get that third one."

There are few who believe that Earl "The Pearl" will never reach his goal. In parting he had a favorable comment for Bell, also.

"Terry Bell is gettin' to where he knows how to play in these kind of tournaments again. It won't be very long before he's goin' to be right in the hunt again."

Strickland possesses all the attributes of a dominant force in his game. He has the skill, endurance, patience, temperament and tenacity of which champions are made.

All he needs to accomplish that three-in-a-row for which he is looking so desperately is to play all of his tourneys in a Caesars World facility located in Nevada!

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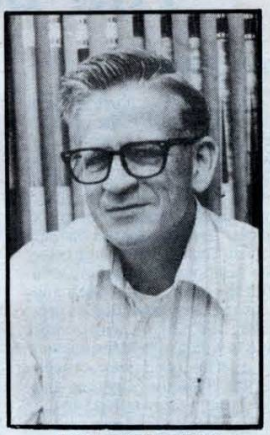

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The Bear's Birmingham Shoot-Out

By DAVID DODD

On Monday, August 27 and Tuesday, August 28 the Drift In in Birmingham, Al. hosted the Bear's Birmingham Shoot-Out. There were 44 players competing for $1,320 in prize money to be divided among the top six places. The entry fee was $30 per player. The tournament director and promotor was David Dodd with the owners (Bill Goza and Leonard Gay) assisting in providing the players with a nice club in which to hold the tournament. The band was cancelled for Tuesday night so the tournament could be held on the dance floor with four rented tables. There were also 4 tables in the gameroom that were always open for action during and after tournament play along with the tournament tables.

Beverages, mixed drinks and food were served 24 hrs. a day to accommodate players and spectators. The Drift In opened Monday at 10 a.m. and didn't close until Thursday at 4 a.m. so the pool players could match up and play. Action was abundant during and after tournament play.

The calcutta bidding was held on the 27th at 7 p.m. There was $800 put in the calcutta pot. Tournament pairings were announced shortly after the calcutta. There were several of the best players in the southeast at the tournament along with several local players. Play begin at 8 p.m. on Monday and was halted at 2 a.m. Play resumed Tuesday at 7 p.m. and the play continued until the finals at 3 a.m. There were several "upsets" due to the format (loser breaks, one-foul ball in hand, race to five games of 9-ball). Most of the matches were close and exciting. Robert Stovall was the eventual winner by going undefeated throughout the tournament. Robert finished third at the Sylacauge Shoot-Out and had to defeat the defending Drift In champion, (from the March tournament) Paul Turner, to win the title. Congratulations to Robert and to Paul.

The Drift In also hosted a ladies tournament on Tuesday night. All of the ladies were local except for the 2nd place finisher, who was from Tuscaloosa, Al.

The prize money breakdown was as follows:

Men's Tournament	
1 — Robert Stovall	$600
2 — Paul Turner	330
3 — Billy Kuykendall	176
4 — Ronnie Smith	88
5 — Larry Poteete	44
6 — Sam Caperton	22
Women's Tournament	
1 — Gwen McGoogan	$75.00
2 — Tuscaloosa Debbie	40.00
3 — Angie Kuykendall	22.50
4 — Sharon Cummings	15.00
Calcutta	
1 —	$298.00
2 —	186.25
3 —	111.75
4 —	74.50
5 —	37.25
6 —	37.25

Trophies were awarded to all players who finished in the money. Miller Lite and Supreme Beverage Co. of Birmingham furnished the trophies. Lite personnel also hung the pool table lights. Thanks to Lite and Supreme for supporting pool in this area.

The next Drift In tournament is tentatively set for early December. Please send your mailing address to me if you want your name put on my mailing list.

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Table Trivia

"The Pool Cue of the Future?")

An inventive fellow by the name of Glenn Reynolds of Middletown, Ohio (outside Cincinnati), and his partner, Bill Richardson, have applied for a patent for something new in pocket billiards — **a two handled pool cue!**

Inventor Reynolds claims the cue has some advantages:

1) better follow-thru and control,
2) better weight distribution,
3) better shock distribution, and
4) the player can use either handle.

Price of the customized cue will be about $250. The Ohioans hope the cue will be marketed in retail stores. A manufacturer in Pennsylvania is already interested.

Apparently, the only rule for pool cues in tournament billiards is weight, length and diameter — so the "two-handled cue" may be the "cue of the future". (Funny thing — only three patents have been issued pertaining to pool cues in all of pool history.)

* * *

Some table-side philosophy: Never play pool with a guy who carries his own chalk. Never play cards with a guy called "Doc". Never trust a woman with a mustache. — Or something like that.

Pool and Billiard Expo Planned in Chicago

EXHIBIT OPPORTUNITY — Manufacturers, distributors and service companies will reach customers and buyers from around the country in this midwest-centered Pool & Billiard Expo. The three-day show, November 30 (Friday) through December 2 (Sunday), is being held in conjunction with the fourth annual Classic Nine-Ball Championship in Chicago. Both events are presented by the Pool & Billiard Scratch Sheet magazine and will be hosted by the Holiday Inn Mart Plaza Hotel.

BOOTH AVAILABILITY — The Chicago Pool & Billiard Expo is being promoted as the "Showcase of the Industry" and will be limited to 20 exhibitors. The show site will be section "B" of the Sauganash Grand Ballroom on the 14th floor of the famous Apparel/Expo Center next to the Chicago Merchandise Mart. Section "A" of the Ballroom will be the Classic Cup tournament site with entry through the show area. The center of the 3,800 square foot exhibit area will contain two roped-off exhibition/practice tables and a cash bar.

Booth prices are $375 or $275 for exhibitors sponsoring a player into the Classic Cup tournament.

Continued on Page 20

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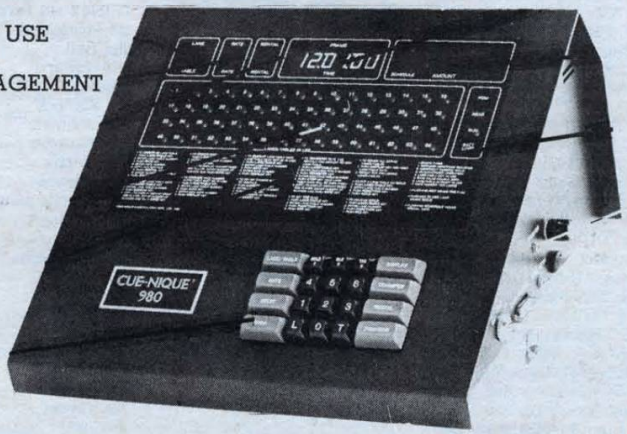

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Results from Caesars Palace

Results of the $100,000 Caesars Palace Pro Billiards Classic Open 9-Ball Tournament, Aug. 14-18, Caesars Palace, Las Vegas, NV:
TOTAL FIELD, 90 PLAYERS
$800 ENTRY FEE
FINAL 32-PLAYER RESULTS
WINNERS' BRACKET

Third Round

Ray Martin, Newberg, NY d. Nick Varner, Paducah, KY 9-6; Earl Strickland, Houston d. Gary Hutchings, Laguna Hills, CA 9-1; Howard Vickery, Columbus, OH d. Tim Kwong, Sacramento, CA 9-8; Grady Mathews, Detroit d. Tom Spencer, Des Plaines, IL 9-4.

David Matlock, Ponca City, OK d. Brian Hashimoto, Honolulu 9-3; Tony Coleman, Eau Claire, MI d. Joe Saad, St. Paul, MN 9-2; Terry Bell, Lake St. Louis, MO d. Darrell Nordquist, Los Angeles 9-1; Bob Hunter, Grand Rapids, MI d. Cecil Tugwell, Los Angeles 9-4.

Billy Graves, San Diego, CA d. Louie Lemke, St. Paul 9-7; Dave Bollman, Norfolk, VA d. Don McCoy, Des Moines, IA 9-4; Al Wichenbaugh, Redwood City, CA d. James "Doc" White, Las Vegas, NV 9-7; Danny Medina, Denver d. Kim Davenport, Ceres, CA 9-6.

Jimmy Reid, Royal Palm Beach, FL d. Dan Kuykendall, Los Angeles 9-4; David Howard, Jacksonville, FL d. Mike Sigel, Towson, MD 9-8; Dallas West, Rockford, IL d. Dan "Buddy" Dennis, San Diego 9-8; Paul Brienza, Sacramento d. Howard Dollar, Sanford, NC 9-5.

Fourth Round

Strickland d. Martin 9-1; Mathews d. Vickery 9-6; Coleman d. Matlock 9-7; Bell d. Hunter 9-4.

Bollman d. Graves 9-6; Winchenbaugh d. Medina 9-4; Howard d. Reid 9-8; Brienza d. West 9-5.

Quarter-finals

Strickland d. Mathews 9-6; Bell d. Coleman 9-5.

Bollman d. Wichenbaugh 9-5; Howard d. Brienza 9-3.

Semifinals

Strickland d. Bell 9-3.
Howard d. Bollman 9-8.

Finals

Strickland d. Howard 9-4.

LOSERS' BRACKET
Sixth Round

Hashimoto d. Medina 9-5; Larry Hubbart, Lake St. Louis d. Graves 9-5; West d. Varner 9-8; Billy Incardona, Las Vegas, NV d. Reid 9-2.

Vickery d. Ed Kelly, Las Vegas, NV 9-2; Martin d. Ernesto Alonzo Dominguez, Sylmar, CA 9-7; Hunter d. Mike Massey, Chattanooga, TN 9-6; Matlock d. Toby Sweet, Nanuet, NY 9-7.

Seventh Round

Hubbart d. Hashimoto 9-7; West d. Incardona 9-4.

Martin d. Vickery 9-2; Matlock d. Hunter 9-8.

Eighth Round

Mathews d. Hubbart 9-4; West d. Coleman 9-1.

Martin d. Wichenbaugh 9-4; Matlock d. Brienza 9-6.

Quarter-finals

West d. Bollman 9-3.
Bell d. Matlock 9-4.

Semifinals

Bell d. West 9-7.

Finals

Bell d. Howard 9-5.

OVERALL FINALS

Strickland d. Bell 9-6.

PRIZE MONEY BREAKDOWN
(Field Paid Through 32 Places)

1st Strickland	$25,000
2nd Bell	10,000
3rd Howard	7,500
4th West	5,000
5th Matlock	3,500
Tie Bollman	3,500
7th Mathews	2,500
Tie Martin	2,500
9th Brienza	1,900
Tie Winchenbaugh	1,900
Tie Coleman	1,900
Tie Hubbart	1,900
13th Incardona	1,375
Tie Hunter	1,375
Tie Vickery	1,375
Tie Hashimoto	1,375
17th Kelly	1,000
Tie Dominguez	1,000
Tie Graves	1,000
Tie Medina	1,000
Tie Varner	1,000
Tie Sweet	1,000
Tie Massey	1,000
Tie Reid	1,000
25th Roberts	750
Tie Ronnie Allen	750
Tie Davenport	750
Tie Hutchings	750
Tie Baker	750
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Loni Brandes Passes

By BOB AMEEN

ED. NOTE: Loni Brandes passsed away on September 3, 1984. Although this article was written by Bob Ameen, it speaks for all those who knew Loni and all her ABA friends.

The recent passing of Loni Brandes, the only woman to play competitive three-cushion billiards in the United States in many years, has saddened the American billiard world.

Not only will her fellow members on the ABA circuit miss her, so will the scores of spectators she thrilled, especially when she defeated male opponents in tournament play. They applauded when she won. They chuckled when she would stomp her tiny foot after missing what she considered an easy shot.

No one ever laughed against Loni. They always laughed with her. Such was Loni's charm and charisma that no one would or could pull against her.

As the only woman playing on the ABA billiard circuit, Loni fought tremendous odds and obstacles in her fierce desire to compete against men. Small in stature and not possessed with great power, she nevertheless persevered until she could perform creditably against her male competitors.

Loni took lessons, practiced and eventually played well enough that this year she realized a dream she long cherished. She qualified for the year-end Classic held at the Cushion 'N' Cue in Oak Park, Mich., one of 12 contestants selected on the basis of points earned during the current billiard year.

As far as Loni was concerned, the ABA couldn't hold enough tournaments to satisfy her. She traveled the width and breadth of the land to compete in as many tournaments as possible. But, aside from tournament play, she loved to play for a little action on the side. Her eyes would light up when she played against a man with a $5 or $10 bill wagered on the outcome.

Many a male competitor learned too late not to take her for granted in tournaments. Before they knew it, they would find themselves taking the small, dainty hand she offered in a friendly handshake following the game, the game that she won!

By every right, Loni should never have played in this year's Classic in Detroit. She left her hospital bed in Milwaukee, weak as a kitten from the illness that ravaged her body and from the drugs being given her.

When she played, it was evident to everyone that she was not herself and that she was playing on guts alone. But, she played and she finished the long, torturous grind of 11 games. For that feat alone, she earned and deserved the respect and admiration of her fellow ABA players.

When Loni came to a tournament, everyone knew it! She would sweep into the room, flash her famous smile and then hug and kiss every billiard player and friend she knew. She soon became a fixture on the American billiard scene, an institution that will never be replaced. She loved being "One of The Boys!"

Following her death, Loni's remains were cremated. Her ashes now rest in Japan, the land of her birth. She will sorely be missed by all who knew and loved her. Future ABA and BFUSA tournaments will not be the same without her. For years to come, she will serve as an inspiration to American billiard players — male and female.

Loni's femininity was like a breath of fresh air during tournaments. Her gestures, her movements were a welcome respite from the more athletic and too-familiar stances and poses of male contestants. Who can forget her bow of apology to the audience and her opponent when she would inadvertently scratch a billiard?

One thing is certain. Wherever she is now, that big, friendly grin and that even bigger heart will carry her through against whatever obstacles come her way.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to her husband, Gordon, and her family.

WPBA Continued from Page 9

Brunswick "Gold Crown" pool tables simultaneously, with WPBA sanctioned officials refereeing the competition.

Tournament play begins Friday afternoon, 2 p.m., November 16, in the Banquet Hall of The Pines Hotel, So. Fallsburg, New York. Players will be available throughout the 3-day WPBA Championship for interviews and pictures with the press. The Final match is scheduled for Sunday, November 18, at 3 p.m.

For further information regarding qualifying tournaments, open entry, and Pines Hotel reservations please contact Barry Dubow, WPBA Managing Director: WPBA, 141 East 44th Street, Suite 705, New York New York 10017. Telephone (212) 557-5711.

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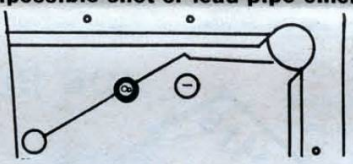

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The Finer Points by Grady Mathews

To excel at any trying pursuit requires a certain self-determination not common to the average person. However, when referring to pocket billiards, I believe greatness is man-made rather than God given. Diligence and common sense are usually the only differences between a professional and a mediocre player.

The all important basics must be mastered, and then excellent play becomes a question of speed, good position and hard work. And we musn't forget courage and heart, the cornerstones of many a valiant effort. But of a certainty, these assets are within the reach of any man or woman of average health and intelligence.

Physical conditioning and good mental posture are prerequisites for championship pocket billiards. The results of proper training are evident in national tournament standings, where the same ten or so players seem to repeatedly win.

The professional player stays down on the ball, follows through and concentrates. And he does things as simply as possible, which in the final analysis, is the most difficult way of all. Because this type of play requires knowledge, which may only be attained through experience, and this is the price most folks are unwilling to pay. Knowledge comes after endless hours of repetition. Obviously the man or woman who aspires to improve, will, after missing any ball or missing position on any particular shot, set the same shot up and repeat it until the desired results are achieved. Sometimes, in the learning process, shots will arise which are not in the ken of the practicer. It is a simple matter in these instances to obtain expert assistance.

When practicing (I recommend practicing alone), many players will imagine themselves to be in a match against a great champion, such as Allen Hopkins, Buddy Hall or Mike Sigel, with a very knowledgeable audience looking on. Naturally, under such circumstances, any player would wish to make an impressive appearance, not doing anything foolish, and the whole while exhibiting coolness under fire.

The proper method of attacking this difficult sport is to play the game rather than an opponent. One attempts to play the game as well as possible regardless of the caliber of the opposition, and sometimes these efforts will fall short of the mark. When this occurs, remember, there's always another day. And don't forget to smile and shake the hand of your adversary, win or lose.

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No major tourn. winners
Dbl. Elim., Race to 7, Finals to 9. 8 Ft. Brunswick tables.
Mr. Billiards
Ashland, Kentucky
For more info call:
Chris Kitchen
(606) 325-7063

10/20 thru 10/21/84
2nd Annual Four of a Kind 9-Ball Fall Classic
$600 guaranteed 1st place
Players meeting & calcutta 12:00 noon
Race to 7, Finals to 9
Dbl. Elim., 1 foul ball in hand
$50 entry fee House adds $200
F.O.A.K.
811 Indiana Ave.
Sheboygan, WI 53081
(414) 457-0977

10/23 thru 10/27/84
N.C. Wolf Pack Open
$250 entry fee
$4000 add 9-Ball
Race to 11
Madison, North Carolina
For info call:
(919) 548-6362

10/30 thru 11/3/84
U.S. Open 9-Ball
$30,000 prize fund
Entry fee $300
$10,000 - 1st place
Dbl. Elim., 11-21 games
Quality Inn
Lake Wright Ballroom
Norfolk, VA
Barry Behrman
(after 11 a.m.) (804) 853-8900
(804) 853-9880

11/3 thru 11/4/84
American Classic
$500 entry fee
9-Ball, Race to 8, Dbl. Elim.
$26,000 prize fund
Great American Blrds.
5536 Garfield Ave.
Sacramento, CA 95841
(916) 334-1776

11/6 thru 11/11/84
Caesar's Tahoe
Lake Tahoe
Contact Richie Florence
(213) 378-5742

11/15 thru 11/18/84
3rd Annual $20,000
Dayton Open
$4000 guaranteed & added
$6000 to 1st, Pays 24 places
Entry fee $250
11 out of 21 games

1st Sunday of Every Month
9 Ball, Double Elimination
Race to 6 Finals to 9
$25.00 Entry Fee Start at 1:30
Pump Lounge
RT. 4 and Strub Rd.
Sandusky, Ohio 44870
(419) 627-9228

Dbl. Elim., Open 24 hours
Forest Park Billiards
4425 N. Main St.
Dayton, OH 45405
Contact:
Joe Burns, Owner
(513) 277-9407
or Joe Kerr, Promoter
(216) 773-2271

Every Other Sunday
at 4 p.m.
9-Ball, Double Elim.
Cash prizes
For more info contact:
Triangle Billiards
605 N. Saginaw
Holly, MI 48442
(313) 634-6940

2nd Sunday of Every Month
9-Ball Tournament
$25 entry fee
No charge for tourn. time
Starts at 3 p.m.
Limited 16 players
House adds $50 if field has 12 or more players.
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Allen Park, Livonia, and East Detroit, Michigan

1st Weekend of Each Month
$1,000 guaranteed 1st place
9-Ball, Race to 5, Finals to 8
Dbl. Elim. Entry fee $30
in adv. $40 day of tourn.
64 plyrs. Pays 12 places
if full field. Open 24 hours.
7 days a week. Special rates avail. for Sheraton Inn.

11/3-4 3-Cushion
18 places — $50 entry fee
Cushion 'n Cue —
Oak Park, MI
313-541-1608

October 21
9-Ball Open
$1600 purse, $55 entry fee
Dbl. Elim., 1 foul, Race to 5, Finals to 9. Pays 6 places
Golden Cue Billiards
303 E. McKinley
Mishawaka, IN 46545
(219) 255-0650 or
(616) 684-4756

November 18
9-Ball Open
$1600 purse, $55 entry fee
Dbl. Elim., 1 foul, Race to 5, Finals to 9. Pays 6 places
Golden Cue Billiards
303 E. McKinley
Mishawaka, IN 46545
(219) 255-0650 or
(616) 684-4756

December 16
9-Ball Open
$1600 purse, $55 entry fee
Dbl. Elim., 1 foul, Race to 5, Finals to 9. Pays 6 places
Golden Cue Billiards
303 E. McKinley
Mishawaka, IN 46545
(219) 255-0650 or
(616) 684-4756

1st Sunday of Every Month
at 3 p.m., 9-Ball
Race to 9 Dbl. Elim.
16 plyrs. Qualifiers held.
Cue Time
15 Rt. 10
Succasunna, NJ
(201) 584-1162

10/85-11/85
American Classic
$500 entry fee
Race to 8, Dbl. Elim.
26,000 prize fund
reat American Billiards
536 Garfield Ave.
Sacramento, CA 95841
(916) 334-1776

Great American Events

CHRISTMAS OPEN — December 22 & 23, 1984 - Sat. & Sun. — $1,000 Added, $200 Entry Fee, Prize Fund $7,400 w/32 Players, Race to 11, Dbl. Elim.

AMERICAN OPEN — February 16 & 17, 1985 - Sat. & Sun. — $1,000 Added, $50 Entry Fee, Prize Fund $6,000, Race to 6, Dbl. Elim.

GREAT WESTERN OPEN — March 30 & 31, 1985 - Sat. & Sun. — $1,000 Added, $50 Entry, Prize Fund $6,000, Race to 6, Dbl. Elim.

MEMORIAL DAY STARS & STRIPES OPEN — May 25 & 26, 1985 - Sat. & Sun. — $1,000 Added, $50 Entry, Prize Fund $6,000, Race to 6, Dbl. Elim.

THE "1776" INDEPENDENCE DAY OPEN — July 6 & 7, 1985, Sat. & Sun. — $1,000 Added, $50 Entry, Prize Fund $6,000, Race to 6, Dbl. Elim.

LABOR DAY OPEN — August 31 & September 1, 1985 - Sat. & Sun. — $1,000 Added, $50 Entry, Prize Fund $6,000, Race to 6, Dbl. Elim.

GREAT AMERICAN CLASSIC — October/November, Sat. & Sun. — $1,000 Added, $50 Entry Fee, Prize Fund $6,000, Race to 6, Dbl. Elim.

CHRISTMAS OPEN — December 21 & 22, 1985 - Sat. & Sun. — $1,000 Added, $200 Entry Fee, Prize Fund $7,400 w/32 Players, Race to 11, Dbl. Elim.

Announcement

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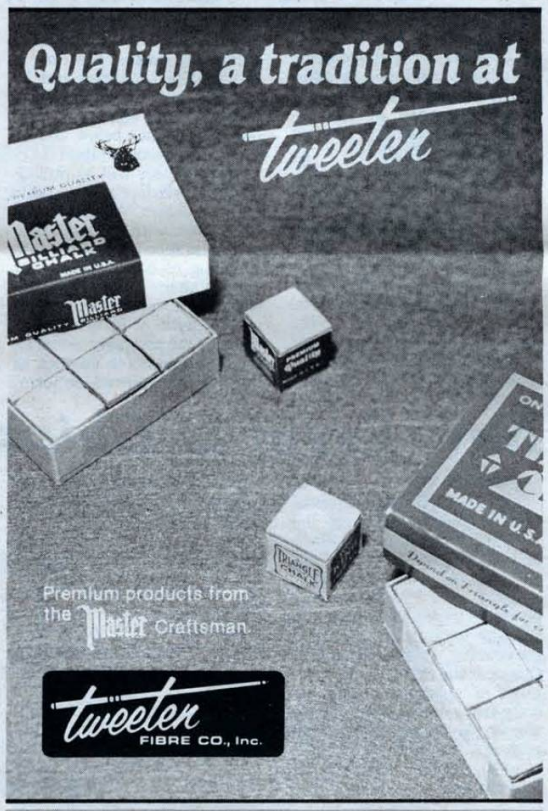

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- Blue Knight Cue Tips
- Economy Cue Tips

Are You A Front Runner?

By Ben Carruthers

In the Marathon, the fellow out front of the horde is called the "front runner". He sets the pace.

When he's out front, he paces himself, he conserves energy, and he enjoys the accolades from the spectators.

But the inevitable happens. The front runner can't keep the pace. The hordes begin to pass him. He slips farther and farther behind. He loses his confidence and his stride becomes erratic. The front runner soon becomes the rear guard.

Are you a front runner? Sometimes, conditions or circumstances thrust you into the lead in your pool tournament. It's a position you're not used to. What's your reaction? Do you fulfill the expectations of your colleagues and eventually slip to the back of the bus?

Most front runners do well when they are ahead. They surprise themselves with their excellent performance. They pump themselves up with their newly acquired position. And then comes the storm.

When a competitor surpasses them, they wilt. They fall apart and listen to the voices that berate them and damage their self-esteem. What was just a few minutes ago a glorious path to victory, now turns into an ignominious loss. The same body is competing, but the mind has decided that the body is no longer the sterling performer. It fulfills the prophecy.

World Class pool, billiards and snooker competitors have this in common: they can lead the horde, and when they fall behind, they can dip deep into the well of courage to make a comeback. They know their personal track record and have the confidence to "stay in there". They are not devastated when they lose the lead.

If you find yourself ahead in competition but when you are toppled you fall apart, you are a Front Runner. If when you are toppled you land upright, keep in the race, and finish respectfully, you are not a Front Runner, you are a World Class competitor.

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Chicago Expo

Continued from Page 14

PACKAGE & EQUIPMENT DELIVERY — Arrangements for display and merchandise shipments prior to the event should be made by the exhibitors. If you are sending packages or equipment to the hotel, each item must be marked "Inside Delivery — Pool & Billiard Expo" or the hotel will not accept them. Packages and equipment will only be accepted during the event beginning on November 29 (set-up day). The 40 x 50 foot Merchants Hotel Room (A & B) adjacent to the show area has been reserved for package and carton storage.

RESERVE YOUR SPACE NOW — Because of the limited number of booths, the Pool & Billiard Expo is expected to be a quick sellout. Make your choice of floor space from the floor plan shown below and indicate the booth number.

All exhibitors will be provided with a six-foot skirted table and two chairs. The show area is carpeted with a unique bulb and brass tube lighting beneath a ceiling of polish metal that creates an air of contemporary elegance. Exhibitors will be furnished with a 9" x 44" sign showing the company name, city, state and booth number as listed on the reservation form.

Booth numbers 1 through 12 are backed with 110V electrical outlets. If you have lighted or electrical displays, please select one of these spaces. Exhibitors not in need of electrical outlets are requested to choose from booth numbers 13-20.

This is the ideal time for the industry to show its new line of products or services for 1985 and offer '84 closeout show specials. Thousands of dealers and buyers from around the country will be invited to this special event through direct mail and industry publication advertising.

New Event in Chicago

INTRODUCTION — The "Classic Invitational 9-Ball Cup" is being presented by the Pool and Billiard Scratch Sheet and hosted by the Mart Plaza Hotel November 30 through December 2, 1984. The Classic has become a major annual event in Chicago for fans from around the country. This fourth annual Classic is the traditional tournament of champions. The top sixty-four men and thirty-two women players in the nation will compete in an $8,000 added, $45,000 single elimination tournament.

PROFESSIONALISM — A dress code requiring coats for men and no jeans for anybody must be adhered to. Players will not have to wear jackets during competition, but they must be worn to the table. Along with requiring professional conduct, the equipment and lighting used in the event will also meet professional standards. A complete tournament staff including referees and score keepers will insure well organized competition at the highest level. The women's division will be sanctioned by the WPBA and sanctioning for the men's event will be arranged.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS — Get the lowest rates available for flight, limo or car rental. Wehrli World Travel has arranged with the American Airlines Convention Desk for a toll-free number for your convenience. Simply dial 1-800-433-1790, mention the Pool & Billiard Scratch Sheet and the following convention number 6502. You will be provided with a full itinerary and any other information you need regarding the Expo or Classic Cup.

ACCOMMODATIONS — The Pool & Billiard Scratch Sheet has arranged a special low rate package for players, exhibitors and guests at the Holiday Inn Mart Plaza Hotel, the tournament and Expo site. Single occupancy is only $48 and double occupancy is only $50 per night. All guests at the event are encouraged to stay at the Mart Plaza. Free parking for hotel guests is provided. Reservations can be made by contacting the Pool & Billiard Scratch Sheet or by reservation card.

TOURNAMENT FORMAT — A single elimination format has been chosen to allow for both a men's and women's division without expecting players to spend a week at the event. Play will be on 4½ ft. by 9 ft. tables using the one foul, ball in hand ruling. Men will be racing to 11 (13 in the finals), women will race to 9 (11 in the finals). A players meeting for each division will be held prior to play.

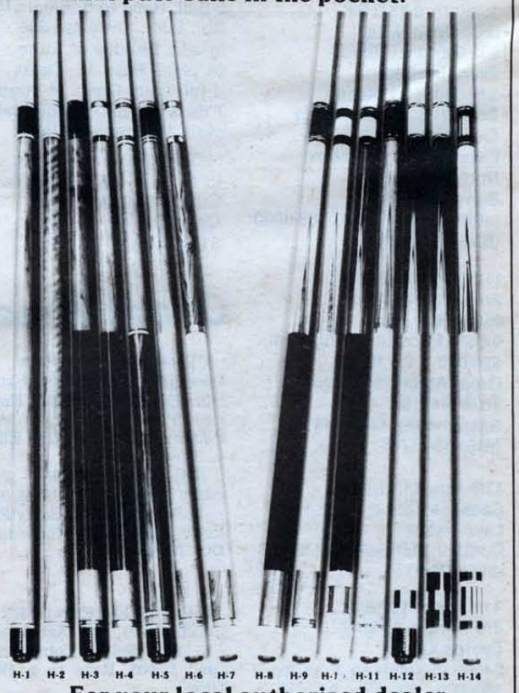
CLASSIC DINNER BANQUET — An industry and player social gathering featuring great food and live entertainment. Dress up and bring your favorite partner to the Classic Dinner Banquet in the modern Buttons Room on the 15th floor of the Mart Plaza Hotel, overlooking Chicago and the lake. Seating is limited, tickets are $20 each and must be purchased in advance.

INFORMATION — All reservation or entry forms must be submitted to:

POOL & BILLIARD
SCRATCH SHEET
25 W 775 Lake Street
Roselle, illinois 60172

Telephone Inquiries are invites at (312) 894-9570.

Treat yourself to the finest cue, that puts balls in the pocket.



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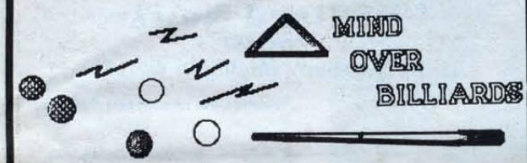
Stars of Resort Shoot-Out — 1984

Steve Mizerak and Allen Hopkins.

Commentator John Madden.

Last year Willie couldn't stand the chatter — used ear plugs.



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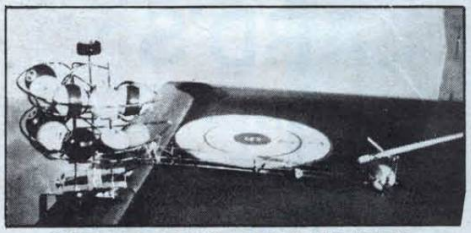

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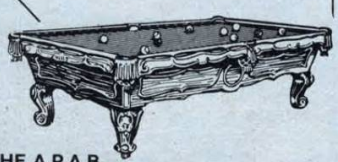

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A.P.A.B. is the Italian Slate Trade Organization known as the Associazione Produttori Ardesia per Billardi. It's functions are: to coordinate the activities of its members; provide standards for quality, ethics and promotion; and improve the technical practices of mining, finishing and shipping their products to the Pool & Billiard Table Industry around the world.

Pot Shots / by Bruce Venzke

A glance at the past, compiled from the NBN archives by Bruce Venzke. **Do you recall?**

10 Years Ago: October, 1974

• **Cue Ball Kelly** (**Carl Zingale** to those who don't know him) was honored by the Billiard Congress of America with a plaque of appreciation for 50 years of promoting and officiating in the sport.

• Dan Louie was 1st ($500, U.S. Open berth), (**Herb Lehmann** 2nd, **Harvey Mason** 3rd and **Larry Hubbart** 4th in Joe F. Farhat's Velvet Rail Labor Day Open Pocket Billiard Championship in Lansing, MI.

• 3-Cushion titles went to **Bill Hynes** over **John Bonner** (3rd Pacific Open at North Hollywood Billiards) and **Bill Hawkins** in the A.B.A. semi-pro Rockhill Open at Rockhill Billiards in Kansas City, MO.

5 Years Ago: October, 1979

• **Steve Lillis** lost his first two matches, and then won 13 straight (including the last 3 in a row over **Dave Lipner**) to win the East Coast Confrontation, a 19-player Nineball test at Hi-Cue in NJ.

• **Kathy Collard** and **Mark Wilson** were Nineball champs in Wisconsin; Kathy at Claude's on Hampton in Milwaukee, and Mark at Green Bay Billiards' 4th stop on the Billiard Congress of Wis. Nineball Tour.

• It took the NBN's Earl Walker five questions to get a straight answer from the irrepressible **Louie Roberts** in an interview, but it was good: "I've lost... a down payment on an aircraft carrier."

1 Year Ago: October, 1983

• The 1983 Brunswick-PPPA World Open titles went to **Steve Mizerak, Jean Balukas** and **Sam Guzman** in New York; the APAB-BCA 13th U.S. Open crowns were won by **Dallas West** and **Jean Balukas** in Detroit, MI.

• Big Action in the South: **Larry Hubbart, Belinda Campos** and **Jack Breit** (1-Hole) topped the Texas River City Open; **Ray Martin** and **Lori Shampo** snapped off the Gameland Music City Open in Nashville, TN.

• Winners: **Joe Kerr**, the Detroit Open at Golden Rack Billiards; **John Shuput** and **Becky Smith**, the Nebraska Open 8-Ball in Lincoln; **Al Romero**, the BREAK 1st Open 9-Ball Tournament in Las Vegas, NV.

State Champ Wins Another

By MILT "M-16" HARDIN

Just two weeks before at Lansing's Velvet Rail, Paul "The Gun" Guernsey, won the 1984 Michigan State Nine-Ball Crown. Then on September 9, he brought his game to big city play at Ray Abram's beautiful Livonia Cushion 'N' Cue, for the monthly Detroit tournament. The "Gun" found all the action he could handle, with an overflow field of 20 tough competitors in this 16 man limited field event.

However he proved he is indeed the states best pocket billiardist. The Wiz Kid from Flint, Michigan, went through the field undefeated but not unscathed. Facing off with Detroit's Dave "Motor City Cobra" Charette in the finals and thus squeezing out a 7-6 win for 1st place money of $200. In pre-lim action there was Terry "Boom-Boom" Bailey of Ann Arbor playing "The Cobra" and Bailey had him on the ropes 6-3, but making some serious errors allowed the Detroiter to unleash his deadly reptilion venom, and bit him on the hill 7-6, leaving the Ann Arboran with 3rd and $100 in prize moneys.

Charette, after losing to the champ took 2nd and $150. In 4th place there was Al Talbot for $50, then in a rare play-off match for 5th place moneys of $50, it paired up "Perfect" Pat Williams and a new young player Jeff "Hooker" Hoeksema.

The new kid on the block blistered Williams with a 7-3 decisive victory, proving to the spectator and player crowd that he will be a future force to be reckoned with in this world's greatest game.

These future tournament dates of October 14 in East Detroit, and on November 11 in Allen Park, and December 9 at the Livonia Cushion 'N' Cues, will now be closed with the 16 man limited field by this writer and tournament director, simply because of it being a one-day tournament and the time factors that are involved in allowing any larger field.

Players must now get their entries paid early or be left-out.

Ray Abrams continues to show the pool world who is the King of Billiard promotions with these sell-out tournaments, along with his general manager and son Mike Abrams, players and pool aficianados owe them a debt of gratitude.

Keep ahead of what's going on in the world of pool, snooker & billiards — subscribe to . . . The National Billiard News

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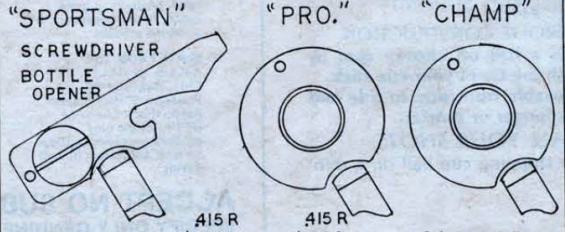

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Resorts Schedule

1984 International 9-Ball Open

CBS SPORTS
Pocket Billiard Events
John Madden, Commentator

MONDAY, OCTOBER 15
11:00 a.m. — Reception and Press Conference
Green Room

Tournament Room
Start 1984 International 9-Ball Open
12:00 Noon to 2:00 a.m.
14 hours x 6 tables = 84 hours:
Complete first round of 64 matches
(Based on 128 Entrants)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16

Tournament Room
11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
(if necessary, 11:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.)
32 Matches
TV Room
8:00 p.m. — Minnesota Fats, Willie Mosconi, Steve Mizerak & Allen Hopkins in Trick Shot Competition and separate Trick Shot Exhibition
2nd show — Team Match: Minnesota Fats & Allen Hopkins vs. Willie Mosconi & Steve Mizerak, playing 7-Ball & 9-Ball with 8-Ball tie-breaker

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17

Tournament Room
1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
(if necessary, 11:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.)
16 Matches + 84 Matches
TV Room
3rd 8:00 p.m. — Minnesota Fats vs. Willie Mosconi, playing 7-Ball & 6-Ball
4th — Steve Mizerak vs. Allen Hopkins, 7-Ball & 9-Ball, with 8-Ball tie-breaker

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18

TV Room
1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Quarter-Finals (4 Matches)
TV Room
5th — Minnesota Fats vs. Willie Mosconi, 8-Ball & 9-Ball
6th — "Legends vs. Legends-To-Be," Willie Mosconi & Minnesota Fats vs. Allen Hopkins & Steve Mizerak, 7-Ball & 9-Ball, with 8-Ball tie-breaker

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19

TV Room
3:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Semi-Finals and Final

Minnesota Fats vs. Jack Johnston
Casino Guest — Celebrity Matches

Mike Massey Wins

By DAVID DODD

On Saturday, July 14 and Sunday, July 15, the $2,000 (guaranteed) Sylacauga Shoot-Out was held at the Broken Spoke Lounge in Sylacauga, Al. to play for the guaranteed $2,000 in prize money to the top 6 players. The entry fee was $30 per player. Promoters were David Dodd, Larry Driskell and Phillip Lollar with David Dodd acting as the tournament director.

The tournament was held in the back band room of the Broken Spoke Lounge. The room was spacious and there was plenty of seating for the players and spectators. There were 7 tables in the back band room. Five tables were used for the tournament with two tables being open for action along with the tournament tables being open after tournament play was completed each night. Beverages, mixed drinks and food were served 24 hours per day and the tournament never closed from Thursday to Monday to accommodate the players and spectators. Action was abundant as there were several head-to-head matches along with ring games. There was also 15 mini-tournaments conducted Thursday and Friday nights for both the men and women.

The tournament calcutta was conducted before the tournament pairings were drawn Saturday evening. Bids from $10 to $150 were accepted with a total of $1,500 being put into the calcutta pot. The pairings were then announced to the full field of 64 players (with about 20 players being turned down). The rules were a race of nine-ball to 5 games, one-shot foul and with the loser breaking. The action was very exciting with some recognizable names and some straight-shooting players who had never played in tournaments before. Among the top seeds were Mike Massey, Steve Lillis, Tommy Counts, Robert Stovall, Mark Jarvis, Earl Blanchard, Paul Turner, Buster Merchant, Nate Green, and David Dodd.

Play was haulted Sunday morning at 2 a.m. and was continued Sunday evening at 3 p.m. The matches were exciting and most of the matches were close due to the format of the tournament. Mike Massey was the eventual winner by going through each of his matches undefeated. Robert Stovall had Massey down 4-3 at one point in their match but the steadiness and straight shooting of Massey eventually won him the match. Mike stated that the trophy he received for winning this tournament was bigger and nicer than any he had ever received before. Mike also received $1,000 for the first place. Congratulations to Mike Massey and thanks for your help and participation in this tournament.

The prize money breakdown was as follows:

1 — Mike Massey	$1,000
2 — Tommy Counts	500
3 — Robert Stovall	250
4 — Mark Jarvis	125
5 — Steve Lillis	75
6 — Terrance Clark	50

Miller Lite and Quality Products, Inc. of Sylacauga provided the trophies and other supplies to the tournament promoters. Quality Products, Inc. also hung the pool table lights and performed many other invaluable services. Thanks to Quality Products, Inc. for helping promote pool in this area as we couldn't do it adequately without their help and participation.

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by Nick Varner

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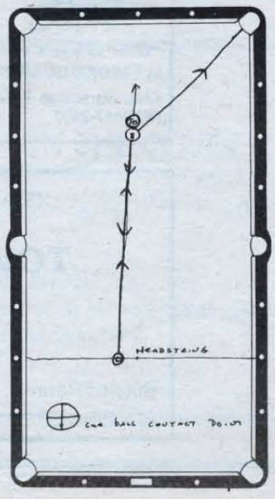

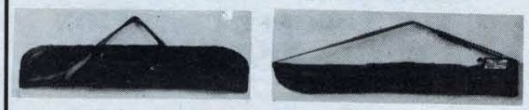

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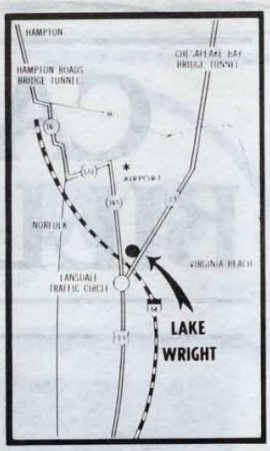

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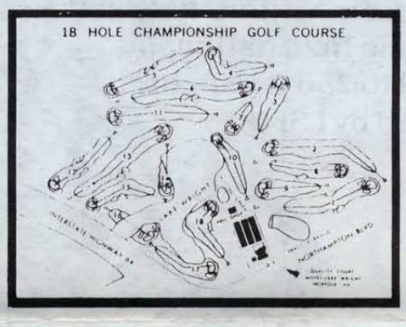

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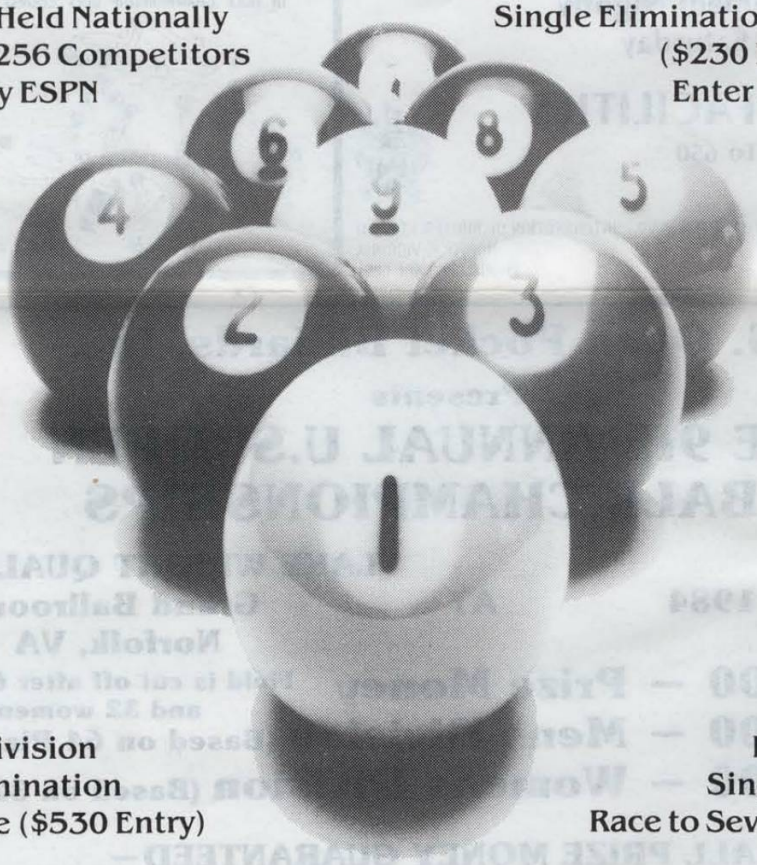

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